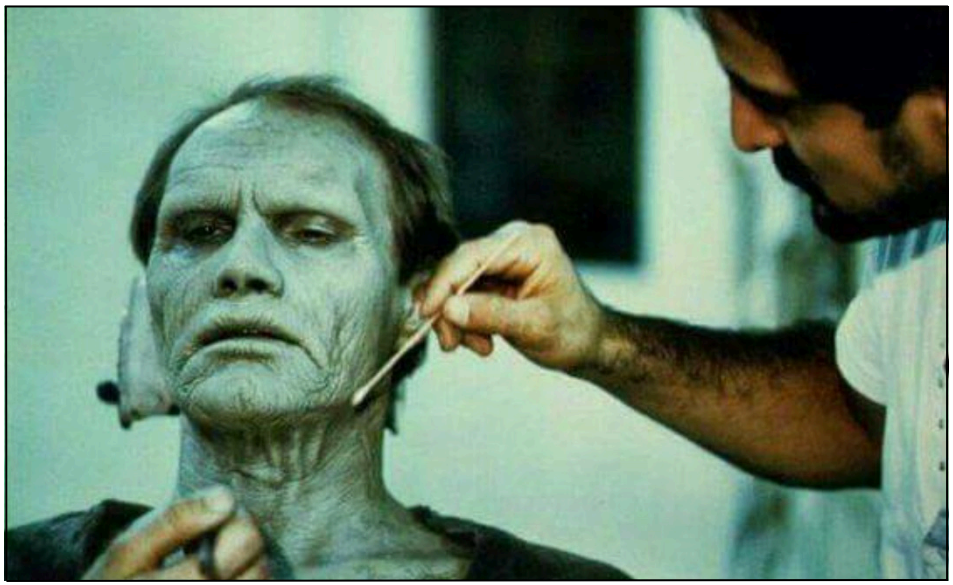


THE DEAD HAVE WAITED, THE DAY HAS COME

OTHER FREE SCREENINGS IN THE AREA

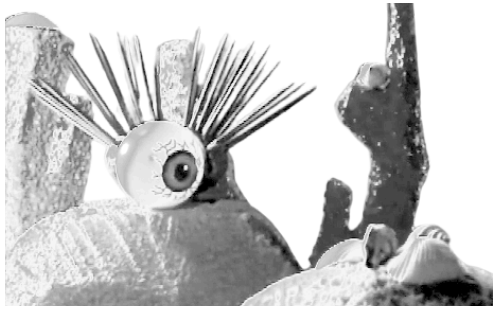
Goleta Valley Library
Film Club at the Goleta Community Center, 3rd Thursdays 1:30

Carpinteria Community Library
Movie Night, 4th Fridays 6:00

Magic Lantern Films
Mondays & Thursdays 8:00, check for locations
Instagram: @officialmagiclantern
ivarts.ihc.ucsb.edu/magic-lantern-films/

AS Program Boards Presents…
Tuesdays, IV Theater 8:00
(free for UCSB students)
Instagram: @asprogramboard
aspb.as.ucsb.edu/aspb-events/

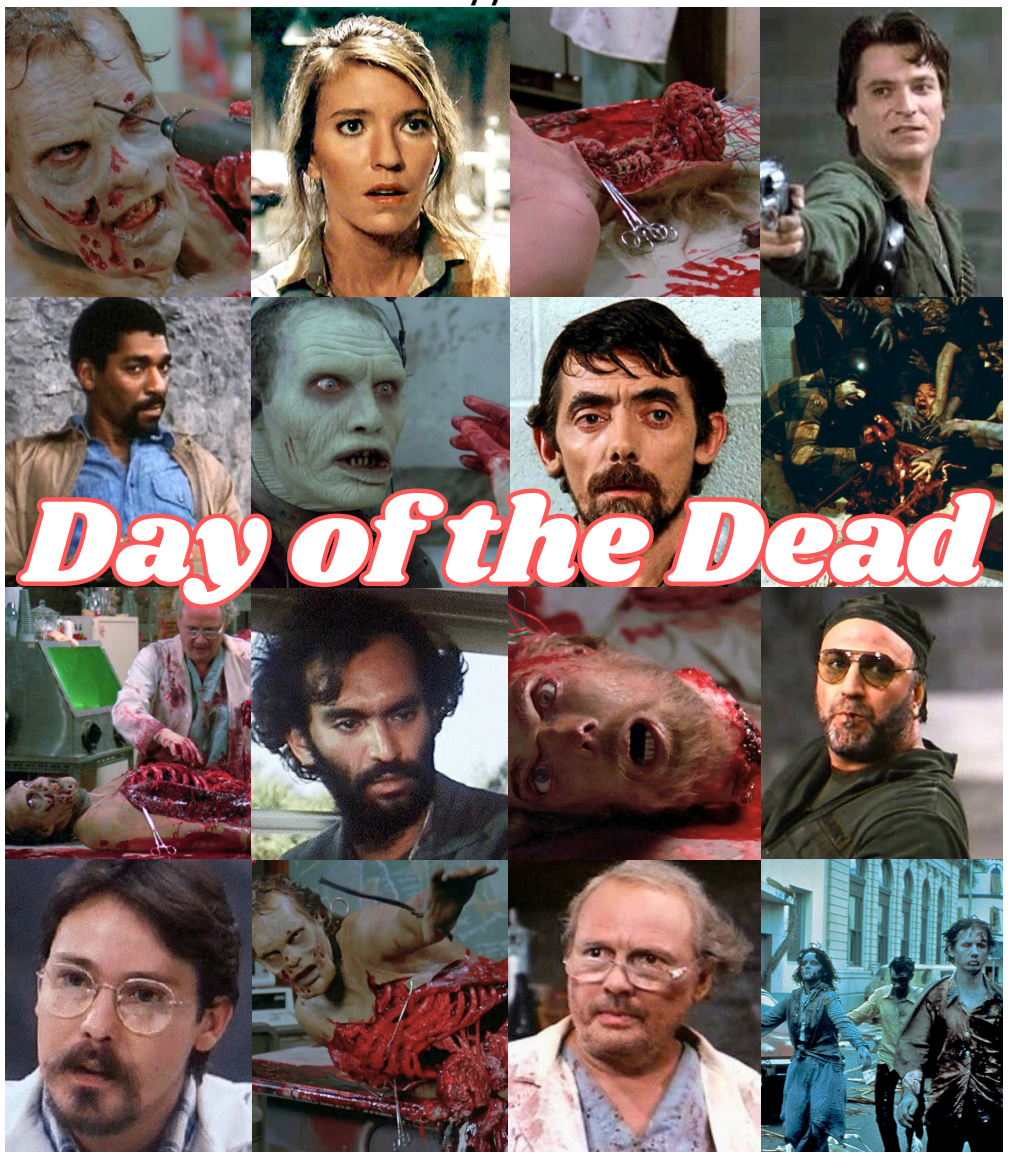
Carsey-Wolf Center at the Pollock Theater
check schedule
@carseywolfucsb
carseywolf.ucsb.edu



Sea Urchin Cinema is a local film collective of individuals based in Santa Barbara County interested in growing a community of open-minded, degenerate movie lovers. Follow us for more on instagram @seaurchin.cine

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2025 / 2PM

CENTRAL LIBRARY // FAULKNER GALLERY



Day of the Dead

A FILM BY GEORGE A. ROMERO

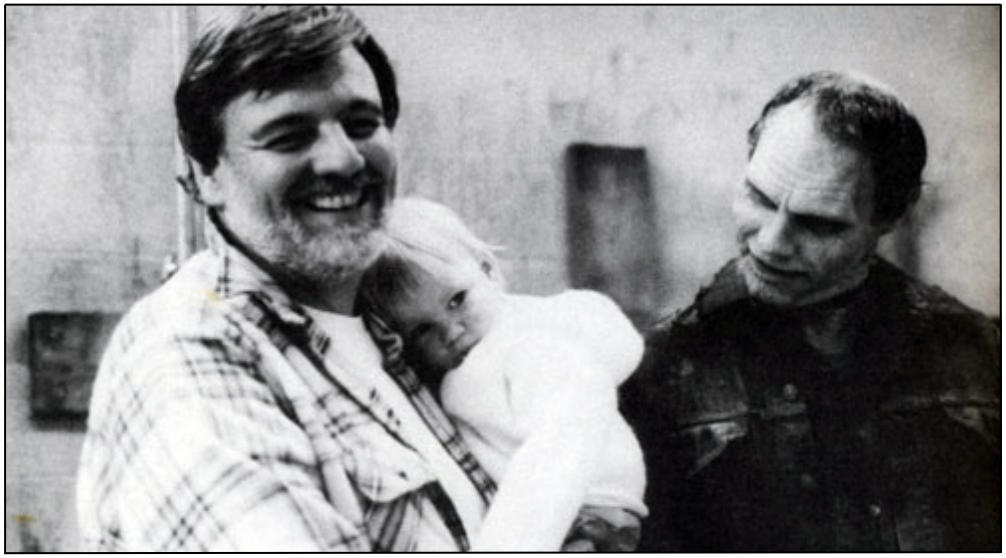
PRESENTED BY SEA URCHIN CINEMA

George A. Romero began drafting his original zombie saga in the 1960s. Originally, he imagined it as one overarching story split into three parts. In the first story, *Night of the Living Dead* (1968), humans are still in control. In the second part, *Dawn of the Dead* (1978), the struggle is equalized and there is no clear winning party. Finally, in *Day of the Dead* (1985), humans have been driven underground and the living dead hold complete power. This final film would conclude the grim tale, ending with a singular gun-toting zombie killing the last remaining human.

Romero began writing the script for *Day of the Dead* in the late '70s. He imagined it as an epic finale to his dead trilogy, on par with *Gone with the Wind* (1939), *Ben Hur* (1959) or *Raiders of the Lost Ark* (1981), but with ***zombies!*** The story would take place in a massive compound, replete with a fully "functioning" society ruled by martial law and a dictatorial governor. These two forces would be in constant opposition with community members simply looking to survive, as well as scientists searching for a cure. There were even zombies packing heat and trained to kill.

In the original ending, the film climaxes with the compound exploding and survivors escaping to a nearby island with the goal of rebuilding society and living peacefully. The zombie plague might even be over. Credits roll, and we see a message from Romero stating "The End (I Promise)". Sadly, this original script would never come to pass. Due to budgetary constraints and Romero's refusal to remove gore in order to appease distributors, the script would need to be absolutely gutted. Many of the cut ideas would later be used in *Land of the Dead* (2005).

The reception of the film was generally negative. Fans thought it was too bleak, and general audiences couldn't tolerate it much either. Roger Ebert gave it 1.5 stars, stating that Romero should "quit while he's ahead". America wasn't ready for a moody melodrama with zombies, they wanted camp and comedy. Despite this, the movie was an international success and has gone on to become a cult favorite for many die-hard fans. Romero describes the film as "a tragedy about how a lack of human communication causes chaos and collapse", and cites the film as his personal favorite of the trilogy.



FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION...

ZOMBIE (1979) - LUCIO FULCI

Italy's unofficial sequel to Romero's *Dawn of the Dead*. The highlights of this movie are Fulci's brutal gore and a ***REAL*** shark versus zombie scene.

NIGHTMARE CITY (1980) - UMBERTO LENZI

The very first instance of running zombies. Forget about *28 Days Later* or *Return of the Living Dead.* This it it, baby!

DELLAMORTE DELLAMORE (1994) - MICHELE SOAVI

The thinking man's zombie film. A sexy, absurd, violent and overall dreamboat of a motion picture. Even Scorsese loves it, dude.

ONE CUT OF THE DEAD (2017) **-** SHINICHIROU UEDA

Filmed as one continuous cut, this Japanese zombie flick will make you cringe, laugh and maybe even shed a few tears. Make it through the first thirty minutes and you're as golden as hell.